

MINI-EDITION



LAMBDA

"OZ n'a jamais rien rendue a l'homme de l'etin qu'il n'avait pas deja"

vol 15

lambda⁷⁶

laurentian
university
sudbury,
northern
ontario.

L.U. delegate reports london meeting

By Rob Higgins

The pamphlet "What is OFS", concludes with the statement, "The maintenance of a unified provincial organization is always important. It is always important for students to share information and ideas, to debate issues of common concern and to stand together in dealing with the government. It is vital to the post-secondary educational system that students have a strong and united voice." The Students' General Association of Laurentian University is a member student union of the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS). I am emphasizing the union aspect of our organization to draw attention to the fact that the majority of the students have interests in common with those of the workers (both organized and unorganized), low income groups of other sorts and in short, all those who are subject to bureaucratic set-backs and governmental or corporate abuse. Therefore, we have the responsibility to unite with these other groups in the struggle for or against various issues of mutual concern.

This will not be a detailed chronological report on the conference, but will deal more with the issues involved. For those interested in the details, they are available at the SGA office.

The chief delegate from Laurentian was Philip Popovich and the alternate was Rob Higgins. The conference started Friday Sept. 24/76 at 7 pm with an introduction to the recent activities of OFS. Each member student union delegation then gave a report on the activities taking place at their particular campuses. Of common concern were: the tripling of fees for international students (a prelude to a general rise in tuition

fees?), the October 14th Day of Protest against wage and price Student Day, the OFS post card campaign to Dr. Parrott (Minister of Colleges and Universities) concerning OSAP and comments about THE STUDENT which is the OFS newspaper.

The following day, workshops were held to develop motions to be presented during the plenary sessions which would conclude the conference on Sunday. A number of subjects and issues pertaining to students were covered. The Laurentian delegates were most active in the "Employment" workshop and the "Students in the Community" workshop. In the Employment

ingless labour." The other was put forward by the University of Toronto's SAC, and read: "Whereas the Federal Government has decided not to collect statistics on students unemployment and Whereas students unemployment is often directly related to students' ability to attend post-secondary education and Whereas some student unions in the province had difficulty getting student and administration co-operation in the Sept. 1976 in-line registration student summer unemployment surveys; Be it resolved that constant pressure be put on the Federal Government to reinstate their survey of student unemployment and that university and college admin-



Philip Popovich and Rob Higgins behind the Laurentian nameplate at the Plenary session of the OFS/FEO conference.

workshop, Phil seconded two motions which carried. The first was put forward by Trent which read: "Be it moved that OFS/FEO opposes the creation of politically expedient make-work programs which exploit students and youth by means of low wages and mean-

istrations be approached now in an effort to get them to administer a summer unemployment survey as a part of their registration each year."

In the Students in the Community workshop, the representative delegates described various ways in which their institutions were open to the community. Next, there was much discussion on the students involved in municipal politics and motions were formulated on these points. Near the end of this workshop, Rob presented a motion which was seconded by Trent. The basis of the motion was that: granted that the university facilities and services should be open to the community and that students can use municipal elections as one means of furthering their interests, we must recognize that in fact, much of the time students are forced to use more basic forms of democratic struggle to further their own interests and their interests in common with the vast majority of the people. The motion read: "Peking that students, as members of the community have interests in common with the community in combating various forms of bureaucratic set-backs, problems with the corporate sector, etc., Be it resolved that OFS/FEO suggest to its member institutions the initiation of further programs in co-operation with the local



Speaker, TERRY MEAGER (Treas. of Ont. Federation of Labour), emphasized that the government was elected on a platform opposed to wage and price restraints and then undemocratically took the opposite position

community to organize grass-roots democratic struggles." The decision of the workshop was that the motion be recorded in the minutes, but not be presented to the plenary for various reasons of order and priority.

A subject you all will be hearing about in the near future was discussed at the Saturday evening session. November 9th is National Student Day! The group discussed student unemployment, student social concerns (i.e. the relationship of students to interest groups in other fields), financial accessibility to higher education, and also more basic questions as the purpose, content and quality of education in our society. A National Student Day committee will be formed at Laurentian. There are many possibilities for Nov. 9th and it will up to the SGA and the NSD committee to determine just what form of action will be taken at Laurentian on this day.

Sunday morning began the plenary sessions of the conference where all the delegations from OFS/FEO member student unions discussed the motions and voted on them. The morning was taken up entirely with discussion on a motion put forward by the McMaster Graduate Student Union proposing that OFS/FEO support the Canadian Labour Congress's Day of Protest against wage controls. OFS/FEO had already decided to oppose the Anti-Inflation program after much discussion earlier this year but now a motion for more

direct support on Oct. 14th was on the floor. The motion was passed by more than a 2/3rds majority on a recorded vote. The Laurentian delegation voted in favour of the motion even though the SGA council has opposed student support of the Oct. 14th Day of Protest at

Laurentian itself. Support of the motion at the OFS conference was given by the Laurentian delegation because the OFS executive had already shown opposition to the Anti-Inflation program and thus a defeat of this particular motion may have been misconstrued as indicating that OFS/FEO was in support of the Liberal government's control program. Further, there will be a good number of students at Laurentian taking it upon themselves to show support of the Day of Protest. There is a possibility also that a new motion in support of the protest will be passed by the SGA. Hopefully this will be the case so the working people's sons and daughters at Laurentian will be heard through their student union. Unfortunately SGA looks like a young businessmen's association sometimes but that story can wait for another issue of Lambda.

Due to a press deadline, further motions debated and decided during the Sunday afternoon Plenary sessions of the Ontario Federation of Students cannot be reported at this time. Lambda's next publication on Thursday, Oct. 5th will carry a report on those final sessions where motions by Laurentian were presented.



Marianne Pringle (OFS field worker for northern Ontario) and Rob Higgins during a workshop debate.

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lambda

THE SECOND PAGE

By Franklin H Ashe

Canada, you said?

"Sutberry? Sitbury? Sudsberry? Where in heaven's name is that?"

That's the kind of reaction you get in Tullahoma, Tennessee when you announce that you're off to Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario in pursuit of academic excellence. Of course, there are more worldly and sophisticated travelers who weren't too surprised by the location; it was the timing...

"Sudbury? Oh yes, the Big Nickel. Going next summer? What? In September!"

"It's lovely in Northern Ontario; we were there two summers ago..."

you're spending the winter?"

After making these comments, people invariably either (a) caught a plane to Miami, or (b) fainted, then caught a plane to Miami. Even my parents weren't a lot of help.

"Take our advice. Stay at the University of Tennessee and major in Ornamental Welding and Fast Food Management like all your friend. We'll buy you a deep freeze you can climb in when the urge strikes."

Nevertheless, I forged ahead, and high on my priorities list was getting my car ready for this venture. Accordingly, I made a pilgrimage to the Tullahoma Ford

dealer and announced I wanted to take the car to Canada.

"I've got just the thing," whispered the service manager conspiratorially. "It's called YFBID antifreeze. Believe me, it'll never let you down."

"Why not?", I asked intently. "What do you think YFBID stands for? You'll Freeze Before It Does!" Guffaws from the mechanics.

"Hey, you want we should put on a snowplow?" "We got a special on snowshoes if you take four for each wheel." "We got chains in just your size; doubt we could fit the car, though."

Well, eventually I got away and 900 or so miles later arrived at the border. Ah, the land of the Maple Leaf at last! The customs people were awfully nice and gave You're Going to Canada" (Remarkable how they figure things out) which told me, among other interesting things, "Canadian highways are well policed and it is unnecessary to carry firearms for protection." Needless to say, I found this tremendously reassuring as I had not thought to bring my trusty six gun with me, and anyway I'd probably be stymied by the problem of pulling one Pinto up into an easily defensible circle like a wagon train. So I drove on with a clear mind. Until the first intersection, where I committed my first violation by biting my seat belt in two when a green light winked at me.

Now, I haven't done a Maine to California survey on this, but I feel it's safe to say that green lights in the US do not blink. I can remember being asked on the Tennessee driver's exam what a flashing yellow light means (slow - proceed with caution) and what a flashing red light means (stop; proceed with extreme caution), but if I had been asked what a flashing green one meant I would likely have written one of three answers:

1. Intermittent power failures.
2. There's a cop working the override box on the corner who's had a drop too much.
3. The author of this test is putting me on.

But I learned, I learned. It was almost a letdown to find out about engine block heaters. I'd

been noticing these electrical cords hanging out of the fronts of cars and fantasizing my own explanation (Coasting to a halt in the middle of the street; "Oh fudge, Edna, we're out of extension cord again!")

And then I'd heard about the conversion to the metric system proceeding here and I wasn't quite sure how far along it was. Out of this grew a tip I'll pass on to other visitors: when you see a speed sign and you're not quite sure if it's in miles or kilometers, drop to that speed in kilometres and hold it to the first stop light. If at that point the drivers behind you leap out of their cars brandishing clubs, rocks, and fists you can be reasonably sure it was miles. Of course, then you have to run the red light to keep from creating an international incident, but it works every time.

Of course, I had to inspect the local paper, and I must say the Sudbury Star impressed me favorably in comparison to the Tullahoma News, which often informs me breathlessly that locusts have been reported down around Turkey Creek and that the Shakerag Baptist Church cordially invites me to an all day revival with dinner on the ground. My eye was caught in the Star by a little item headed "16 ways a Sudbury Star Carrier Benefits." Most intriguing was No. 16, "Many successful businessmen including Canadian Prime Ministers and US Presidents were once carriers."

This was an addition to my education and I gave it some thought. I never had the honor of being a

(Continued next page.)

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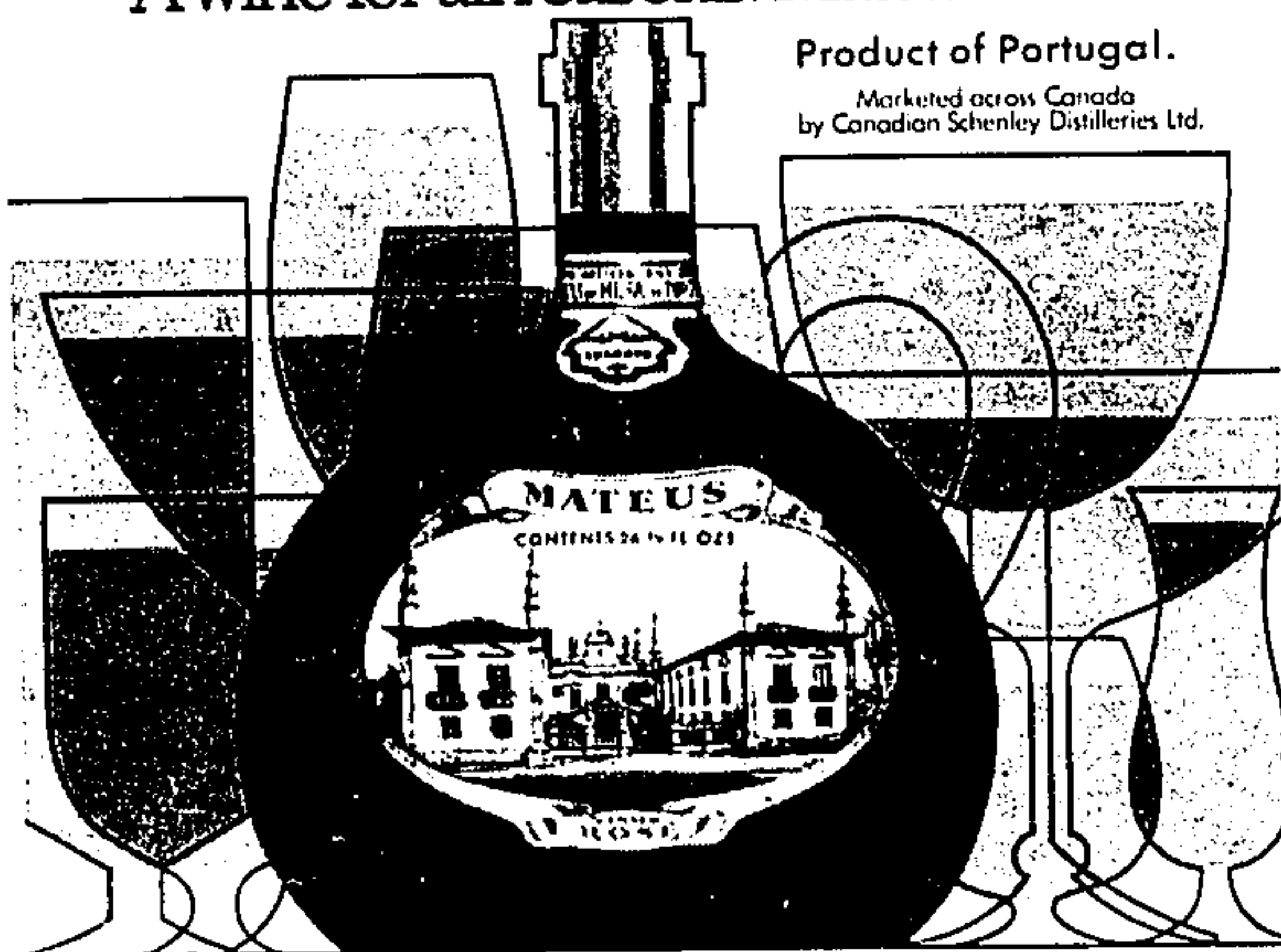
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Essays

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Star carrier myself, but I was once for the Nashville Tennessean and since people are much the same all over I think I can explain something here. I don't know much about Canadian politics but even I've heard about Mr. Trudeau's controversial economic controls policy and here's undoubtedly the reason for it: he's getting back at all those subscribers who controlled bills. They always have an excuse.

What They Say

"My husband has the check-book and I'll send you one as soon as he gets home from work."

"I'm not sure what I did with your bill."

"I've had a lot of unexpected expenses and I just don't have the money right now."

Just off hand, I can't recall which US Presidents may have been Star carriers, but if Richard Nixon was one, I'm sure he didn't have the above problems. He probably had the papers bugged and collected dossiers on each subscriber.

So then I picked up Lambda,

which proved just chock full of goodies, including a blistering denouncement of "capitalist roaders" (uh-oh, should I have sold that Acme Roadbuilding stock?) and dark hints that I might fall afoul of the "morality squad" in the downstairs pub. I haven't quite deciphered this one yet, but again I fantasize ("AAA! Rook 'em on a 101, Clyde - Immorality in the First Degree!")

What They Don't Say

Hubby works in southwest Peru and will be returning a year from next Tuesday.

He's not sure which trash can he put it in.

The ash trays on the old Cadillac filled up sooner than usual and he had to buy another one.

And all this before classes even started. My, my, looks like an interesting year coming up. Through it all, though I'm sure I'll make it. You think I want to hear what they'll say in Tennessee if I don't? Not a chance. Excelsior! Now, blast it, what did I do with that Fahrenheit/Celsius chart?

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Parti Québécois

after the setting of "Le Jour"

By Alan Conter

(Alan Conter is a researcher for the historical series "Les Anglais son arrivés", Office de Radio Télédiffusion du Québec. This article originally appeared in the McGill Daily.)

Montreal (CUP) -- After struggling for two and one half years to survive, Le Jour died this month the end of a bold and costly experiment to create an "indépendantiste" daily newspaper in Quebec. No doubt the hockey fans in Toronto will take comfort in this fact, and the provincial Liberal Party will attempt to convince us that the death of Le Jour is in some ways indicative of the Parti Québécois' weakness. It will be interesting to see how much political mileage various groups will try to derive from what is, after all, a rather uneventful occurrence; it will be interesting to see just how far people will go in equating the folding of a newspaper with the health of a political movement.

Le Jour was founded early in 1974 by the Parti Québécois to fill what was felt to be a serious void in Quebec journalism. Of all the daily newspapers in the province not one supported the "indépendantiste" option, yet a third of the population had voted "pro-Québec" in the 1973 election. Le Devoir had been the most sympathetic to the proposals of the Parti Québécois. However, editor Claude Ryan, in a series of editorials just prior to the election, outlined his reasons for considering the Parti Québécois ill-equipped to form a government in the Assemblée Nationale, adding almost as a postscript that the time had not yet come to abandon the prospects of reworking the constitution in a manner suitable to the aspirations of the Québécois. If that was the best that could be hoped for from the established press in promoting the positions of the Parti Québécois then it seemed not unreasonable to at least attempt to establish a new formed Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition in the provincial legislature. Ownership of a newspaper was certainly nothing new in the history of Canadian political parties, and overt unashamed control was "de rigueur" well into this century; and, for those who have the patience, a careful examination of the corporate links of the major newspaper chains will still reveal a rather "cosy" arrangement between them and the major political parties. The Parti Québécois' entry into the field of journalism through the creation and partial ownership of a newspaper The paper started out with a rather rosy beginning. It attracted top-flight journalists from Le Devoir, La Presse and even from that bastion of English Montreal, The Montreal Star. The editor-in-chief was Yves Michaud who had failed to win a seat in the last election, and the paper received regular editorial contributions from Jacques Parizeau, professor of economics at the Université de Montréal, former economic consultant to federal and provincial agencies, and economic wiz of the party.

The editorial staff were certainly experienced at running a paper. The paper was set up under a corporation in which the

Parti Québécois held only partial control of the shares, the rest being held by the public at large.

Le Jour was heralded as a co-operative effort by free thinking "indépendantistes", and was to be a model of democratic journalism, Levesque, Parizeau and Michaud assured the public that the journalists at Le Jour would be free ought to be criticized, including the Parti Québécois. To make sure that such journalistic freedom was maintained a structure was created within the paper calling for full employee participation in the editorial decision-making process.

Initially it seemed to work. During the first half of 1974, despite the kinks that plague any new

endeavour Le Jour maintained an average daily circulation of about 40,000 drawing most of its readers away from Le Devoir.

There was even talk that summer that if Le Jour continued to prove such a stiff competitor to Le Devoir, Le Devoir's circulation might drop below the 30,000 mark, spelling financial disaster.

PAPER FALLS FLAT FINANCIALLY

Yet it was Le Jour that was soon in trouble, first financially and then in conflicts between the editorial board and the journalists. Though the paper was drawing the readership, it was unable to attract a sufficient number of advertisers.

On one level there was the substantial degree of federal government advertising dollars that was prohibited by Trudeau Government policy from finding its way to Le Jour, the provincial government had adopted a similar stance but gradually abandoned it. Newspapers across Canada accused the Trudeau government of misusing public advertising dollars in singling out Le Jour in its boycott and in a rare show of solidarity supported the claims of Le Jour to an equal share of the pie.

Yet Le Jour's major advertising dollar problem came from another level, the failure to attract enough small advertisers at a time when ad money was in short supply and the city was saturated

with six major dailies serving a population of just two and a half million people.

The paper was forced to turn to its readership for additional support simply to keep above water. "Les amis du Jour" campaigns were often launched province-wide, and it fell upon the individual members of the Parti Québécois to launch, manage and contribute to the campaigns.

Though the campaigns always met their objectives it was thought that this was an impossible way to run a paper. Had the paper served the party in the manner it had been intended to, Le Jour might have trudged on in this fashion, but the paper was not serving the party.

Because of its very nature as an "indépendantiste" journal Le Jour focused its attention, rather myopically, on the political centre of "indépendantisme" - The Parti Québécois. The PQ was as often as not the target of Le Jour's journalists, who seemed determined to wage the party's dirty laundry in the face of the public.

The party was not amused - or at least Levesque, Parizeau, and Michaud weren't. They felt that the paper was becoming a platform on which to wage an ideological battle between the party's "left-wing" and the "right-wing" led by party leader Levesque.

By August of 1974, when the paper was once again in financial straits, it was decided to close up shop. With rumors of an upcoming provincial election the Party could not afford to expend its cherished balling out a newspaper that now tended to be a divisive factor within the "indépendantiste" camp instead of being the rallying point of the movement. Therefore, the Parti Québécois pulled out.

LE JOUR AND PARTY POPULARITY

This decision is probably for the best. The Parti Québécois has never ranked so high as it does now in the public opinion polls, and the paper seemed only to be a liability on the resources of the Parti.

In the fairy-tale attempt to combine the interests of the political organization with the ideal of a democratically run newspaper a situation was created that invited the journalists at Le Jour to constantly reassert their independence official party policy. In the long run constant criticism of party policy might have proved a grave disservice to the well-being of the "pro-Québecs". In the short run it led to journalistic nit-picking, and what could be more boring - even if offered up in tabloid format?

That Le Jour is dead means simply that; the paper is dead, no more. That the problems Le Jour revealed within the party will continue to plague the party must also be accepted; but the problems were there before Le Jour, and were never to be resolved within Le Jour. They are problems similar to those that beset any other party in Quebec and Canada, and are rightly to be settled at the next Congrès du Parti Québécois.

For the moment the Parti Québécois is apparently quite well and will probably survive the failure of this experiment. After all, the Liberals seemed to have had a great number of failed experiments, and they are still around.

ISO ponders fee differential

On Sept. 23 at 7:00 o'clock, the International Student's Organization held their first meeting cum social in the Administration Lounge of the University of Sudbury. Chris Studholme, president of ISO chaired the meeting and gave an assessment of the organization's present status. "...It's a sham, I can't lie". In all, about twenty members were present to partake of the free beverages.

What appeared to be a wake, however, soon resurrected itself around the fee increases for foreign students slated to come into effect in 76-77. Foreign students will be penalized to the tune of a three hundred per cent fee increase. Several present felt the government policy was racist and a heated discussion ensued. Ronnie, the main proponent for organizing against the increase is a member of the Canadian Party

of Labour. Her political beliefs obviously grated on several ISO members. Nonetheless, interested parties agreed to meet in Room 101, Married Student's at seven pm, next Thursday, to form a committee to examine the issue. And the issue is in need of examining. The government contrary to the assertions of Harry Parrot, Minister of Colleges and Universities, has already tripled fees for foreign students at Colleges. The entire program is a sham.

Many 'foreign' students are lauded immigrants. They intend to stay and live in Canada. They will not be affected by the fee increase. When you look at the statistics you will find that there were only 4,144 (CUP Sept. 21) from Statistics Canada) students on visa contrary to the reported 7,500 (Toronto Star). There is a paucity of statistics from the Ministry itself. This seems unusual in view

of the importance of such information would be in forming and executing their policy. In effect, the government seems to be appealing to an underlying feeling of racism that it believes exists among its citizens. "Foreigners" invariably get this type of treatment in the governments policy should be insulting to sensible Canadians. The move does next to nothing for the economic stability of higher education. Expressed in terms of the minister's budget, it will save less than one per cent. In view of the ill-feeling that this discriminatory fee scale must arouse in foreign students, it seems a foolish little bit of grandstanding by the government to show the electorate it is doing something. It would be entirely more equitable to raise all student fees across the board by the amount this policy would save. The cost would then be well within the federal government's Wage and Price Guidelines.

Fee increases are still in the offing; the government's rationale may well be divide and conquer. There are approximately 240,000 students in post-secondary education. A province as wealthy as Ontario, a province whose economy far surpasses many third world countries can afford the dismal little amount it is saving by this action.

Many other countries manage not to charge differential fees - France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Denmark and Finland. If this issue concerns you, get in touch with the ISO's committee; something can be done.

Stapleton on politics

By David Stapleton

It doesn't take much to realize that the government is in trouble. Yet, the sad thing about the situation is that Trudeau himself has constantly refused to admit that he is the foremost problem, and that of Canada's. Last week's cabinet shuffle saw a loss of Bryce Mackasey, Bud Drury, and Mitchell Sharp. Mackasey, who was by far the most popular minister was lost because of the Prime Minister's own insensitivity in dealing with the Minister. The loss of the Minister has effectively again put Trudeau out of touch with Canadians than in the past. So, it would seem that Trudeau, author of the "Just Society", hasn't learnt a thing from the previous Canadian political history. If anyone cares to look back John Diefenbaker had a similar situation occur in 1963 with Ministers in revolt and resigning, and within a short time he was defeated, and his government was out. The disgrace is that Canada needs leadership now; we need a leader to unify the country, and one who could give Canadians a challenge much as Kennedy did in the United States back in 1961. Trudeau has failed

to do this, and has ignored the grass roots which is namely, the Canadian people. The consequences of such a situation is the political death of a government, and the threatening ruin of our parliamentary system. For the first time in Canada we may see the Liberals wiped out as a national party, and reduced to the likes of a regional political unit. As a result, Canadians suffer. They suffer because of the backlash that is going to occur. I speak here of the fragmentation of Canada, of money lost on the October day of protest, and of the sad, and deplorable situation over bilingualism. All of this could have been avoided. My own thoughts are that 1978 will be Pierre Trudeau's ultimate challenge, and perhaps Canada's. Perhaps the ultimate comment is what some Conservatives are saying, and that is not to do anything to oppose the government, but rather just to let it defeat itself.

So, perhaps that will happen, however, in the meantime, Pierre Trudeau may well be literally unfolding as the universe in every way his imagination can conjure up.

NOTICE

STUDENT'S WHO
WISH TO SWITCH
COURSES ...THE
DEADLINE IS OCT
FIRST

Editorial Page

SGA votes to scab

A special meeting of the SGA was called last week to consider the councils' position on the Canadian Labor Council's (CLC) day of protest. The CLC is organizing labor across the country to walk off the job this Oct. 14. It was on Oct. 14th last year that Trudeau first spoke on the need of wage and price controls. Some counsellors were ignorant of why the SGA meeting had been called and others were even oblivious to the CLC's purpose in this action in spite of the wide media coverage.

A motion put forward by Philip Popovich (SGA rep) to support the CLC's day of protest was handily defeated with only three counsellors in support of it. Rick Hoffman (SGA Pres.) promised to bring the issue up again at the next SGA meeting. Several universities, as far away as British Columbia have already vowed to lead students out in support of the CLC. Ironically, Laurentian with its high percentage of working class students is effectively in a scab position on account of their student government's action.

Popovich, who alone with representative Rob Higgins was in London this weekend past at an Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) convention also gave notice of a motion at the meeting to introduce By-Law 16 to the SGA's constitution. In effect, if passed, the By-Law will create an External Affairs Committee. The committee will deal with external student organizations such as OFS and the National Union of Students (NUS). The committee shall consist of the SGA president and/or Rep, four counsellors (of these four,

representative Rob Higgins was in London this weekend past at an Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) convention also gave notice of a motion at the meeting to introduce By-Law 16 to the SGA's constitution. In effect, if passed, the By-Law will create an External Affairs Committee. The committee will deal with external student organizations such as OFS and the National Union of Students (NUS). The committee shall consist of the SGA president and/or Rep, four counsellors (of these four,

50% must be student senators on council.

Another matter of interest to students is a proposal by administration to raise prices in the pub. In spite of the gross profits already registered, administration is hungry for more. Their rationale is that students should pay management fees to the office of the director of services. Considering the mismanagement to date, it was reassuring to see council put this matter aside for further consideration.

Vandals Flood Pub

On Friday evening, at roughly twelve thirty, patrons in Laurentian's Pub were treated to a show-er. Vandals on the floor above the pub ripped apart some plumbing fixtures in the washroom adjacent to the Great Hall. It is assumed they were attending the dance being held that evening in the Great Hall. The water, gushing from the broken pipe flooded the upper side of the ceiling tiles and then as water will often do seeped through the same and cascaded down onto some unfortunate patrons. Gallons of water flooded the floor, diluted drinks and soaked peoples' valuables. Fortunately no reports of personal injury were received. The bar

in the Pub was closed by Jim Lapas (Pub manager) and patrons were told to go upstairs to the dance. Employees were told to walk through the water to clear and clean the tables. A security guard stayed until late morning cleaning the mess up.

The water was at least two inches in some area. The water continued to gush for a half hour and three-quarters of the pub floor was under water. When asked about the incident a patron immediately below the stricken area stated, "I was thoroughly pissed off and you can quote me".

The pub was not at fault as the breakage definitely occurred on another floor.

Time to reassess

Frosh week was a limited success this year, if that. It seems that something is intrinsically wrong with the whole idea itself. It is easy to point the finger at the SGA and blame them for each event that didn't come off, i.e. you should have advertized more; you picked the wrong night, it cost too much etc. etc..

In fact, each of these is true to some extent. But university the size of Toronto, one has only to draw a limited percentage of the warm bodies to any given event. At Laurentian, one has to draw off almost half the full-time student body to get a thousand people. It is always going to be difficult to attract that many or half that many to a one - shot event. When you attempt to have a solid week of frivolity the odds on favorite for blowing it on some, approach certainty. In effect, what has happened at Laurentian in the past is that an enormous amount of bread is spent during Frosh Week and Winter Carnival. It would seem more logical to spread these events throughout the year. Between these two splurges, there is only a peppering of events. It might also be worthwhile considering withdrawing a little cash from the dances and putting more of it towards clubs and organizations. Many people on campus attempt year after year to develop or innovate new clubs. The fact is they are all undercapitalized. Doling out one hundred dollars to a club is not going to get it anywhere. The members are left with little else to do but have a social. At the end line, it's a waste. Our money is pissed against the wall. Given long-term support and more cash, these organizations can get it off. They can have guest speakers, they can sponsor debates, they can make a significant and worthwhile contribution to the well-being of this institution.

Prof. Vincent di Norella
Department of Philosophy

An analysis of Senate's academic regs

You may have noticed that LU's academic Deans have proposed new academic regulations at Laurentian. These 'reforms' deserve our attention, for what they do not say as much as for what they do say.

For example, there is an interesting omission in these proposals. These proposals have been associated with the current debate about standards in student performance at all levels of school. What is interesting in that debate is that little is being said about standards of faculty performance. This debate assumes that student performance is worsening, (b) that this is the fault of the students, or (c) of teachers in the previous level of schooling. That is, professors blame the poor performance of their students on high school teachers, who in turn blame grade school teachers, who again in turn blame the family. I call this THE LAW OF DISPLACED BLAME. A corollary common to those who practice displaced blame is that they never think of criticizing themselves, or their own level of education for student performance.

My point so far has been general: to note a significant defect in the present debate about academic standards which forms the context of the new regulations. For some strange reason 'upgrading academic standards' is taken to mean only changes in how teachers grade students, thus professors can evade the problem of attending to their own performance as teachers, and especially of dealing with incompetent teachers. Most universities blissfully ignore this whole area, yet constantly worry about the low academic standards of their students. It makes one wonder whether academic standards are not double standards...

However, we should be gracious enough to examine the Great New Reforms in Academic Regulations proposed by our Deans. Allow me to offer a selective summary:

- The school year is to be lengthened by one week. (apparently this will make registration more efficient. We should not conclude that the Deans are suggesting here that the longer students are in classes the more they will learn...)

- Abolition of supplemental exams.

- 60% average on 15 courses, out of a maximum of 20 attempt. If 60% is not attained, a student will go on probation, and, if he fails 5 courses or does not gain good standing in 2 years/10 courses consecutive-

ly, he will be suspended. Faculty, too, go on probation when first hired. It lasts about three years. Just as students they receive degrees, if they have not been suspended, so faculty then receive the inner, indelible, almost sacramental character of PERMANENT TENURE. Faculty, like students, become CERTIFIED for life. (Unless, it is rumoured, they are found guilty of 'moral turpitude' or 'incompetence', both of which seems to mean, it is said, that a professor has been found raping a student, in public, and the student was the daughter/son of the chairman of the Board of Governors).

Oops. I have erred. There is a double standard. Students can be dismissed without having raped anyone.

- A breathtaking shift of 5% in the numerical values of letter grades is also proposed (Table One)

Clearly the New Grading System (NGS) is more scientifically standardized than the Old (OGS). Now, I realize that some are in awe at the power and validity of SCIENCE as applied to education, while others cry in horror at this dehumanizing attempt to measure the immeasurable spiritual quality of the educational experience. Fear with me. For both the Old and New systems have interesting, if at times, unintended implications.

- Homogenization: the same letter/number values are somehow applicable to measuring learning in all areas, from philosophy to geology to social work. A truly scientific achievement.

- Averaging: By their definitions each letter relates to some average of student performance, or to the performance of average, (or, most students). This is clearer in the full 3/4 line verbal definitions of each letter grade.

This too, seems to be a scientific achievement. Let us examine its marvels. Take an average class of 100 students. Let us suppose that the extreme top and bottom (A's and F's) contain 10 students each, that the in-betweens (D's and P's) contain 20 students each, and that the middle (C) contains 40 students. This would yield something like a 'normal distribution curve'.

However, if we assume that the numerical range of each letter (Table 1) is significant, then surely the distribution of students

should reflect that range. This would yield quite a different 'curve'.

Why else do we give a range of 50 to F, 10 to D, 5 (10) to C, 9 (10) to B, 26 (21) to A? (The brackets refer to the New Grading system ranges.) What is the point to giving only a range of ten to the category which is intended to hold most students? Is it that we are not to be allowed to discriminate finely among their different performances? Or that their performances are not all that different? But how do either of these answers cohere with the range of FIFTY, given to F's!!! And of 21 to A? Where is the sense in all this?

I fear that there is one built-in characteristic that gives both grading systems a totally unacceptable educational sense. Both systems allow professors to PUNISH poor performance more than they can REWARD good performance! They are primarily punitive systems; as such they represent perfectly the already noted double standard of academic mythology.

This PUNITIVE EFFECT of the system is easily seen. Assume, as the regulations themselves suggest, that the average grade given is 65, or C. It follows that any failing (F) grade can lower one's standing in the 15 or 20 courses required for the degree more than a high (A) grade can raise it.

High: A equals 75, 80, 90, 100

Average: equals 65

Low: F equals 0, 10, 20, 30, 40

That is, the A's can only be, respectively, 10%, 15%, 25% and 35% higher than the average (65). BUT, the F's can be 65%, 55%, 45% lower. It is only a matter of habit, custom, or luck that many professors in fact give F grades from 30 to 49 for it is also true that a customary practice at

the other end restricts the range usually from 75 to 90. Why then do we allow the range of F to be so great? Or of A, B, C, D so small? Even if 100's are as rare as 0's (which I doubt), a 100 is less rewarding in its effect on one's standing than a 0 is punitive. WHY???

I suggest that we take this opportunity to genuinely reform our grading system. The following three options should be studied, for they all reward good performances more than they punish poor and all are fairer. I assume that we are forced, on administrative grounds, to use standardized grading systems:

Option I (American Grade Point Average system)

A equals 4; P equals 3; C equals 2; D equals 1; F equals 0. Each course grade is multiplied with the number of credits for the course; A in 6 credit courses (4 times 6) equals 24; P would equal 18; A in 3 credit courses (4 times 3) equals 12. Etc.

Option II: Pass/Honours

Three grades: N (no credit; for incompletes, withdrawals, and failures. Means no repeat allowed without permission.) P equals Pass (competence demonstrated). H equals Honours (extraordinary good work)

Option III: (descriptive, non-numerical, evaluation)

No numerical or letter grades. Simply descriptive evaluations of performance, with recommendations Re: future courses, etc.. Main flaw: unacceptable to graduate schools. Also makes for administrative difficulties. That is, standardized, averageable grades make administration easier. Ergo, Upgrading Standards equals Standardization.

As we all sense, that seems to be the heart of the matter.

	Old Value	New Value	Definition
A	75-100 (26)	80-100 (21)	Exceptional performance
B	66- 74 (9)	70- 79 (10)	Good performance
C	60- 65 (6)	60-69 (10)	Satisfactory performance
D	50-59 (10)	50-59 (10)	Minimally competent perform.
F	00-49 (50)	00-49 (50)	Failure

TABLE ONE

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By-elections Oct. 14/76
THERE ARE POSITIONS OPEN
for 1st year Rep
2nd year REP

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illy borjes U.C.1108
or rand dyck pol.sci.
dept.

A coeur ouvert

La minorité jadis complexée, écrasée et recroquevillée sur elle-même a depuis quelque temps ressentie une lueur d'espoir, cette lueur n'est autre que la richesse naturelle dans un désert, blanc que Louis XIV considérait comme écurie. Ses possédants ont découvert donc que tout leur est permis, prise de conscience, remise en question du système, enfin révolte.

Cette dernière est normale et n'existe pas rien qu'au Canada. Les travailleurs algériens en France, bien qu'ils n'exercent que les travaux que les français trouvent déshonorants, sont méprisés, ils réagissent cependant en volant, en violant des biens qu'ils ne leur appartiennent pas, en tuant même. La minorité algérienne, vivant dans des taudis, se révolte à leur manière, vis-à-vis une majorité

écrasante, exploitante sans pitié pour ces animaux de travail mal payés. La minorité noire des États-Unis, se groupe dans des places indécentes pour un humain et se révolte pour créer une confusion dans la race dite supérieure. Les Palestiniens se trouvent sans patrie, sans argent, sans "job", parce qu'ils sont une minorité par rapport aux Sionnistes aidés par la puissance irrécusable des Américains. L'union fait la force.

Il faut compter, et enfin d'autres veulent les éliminer.

L'agacement des québécois vis-à-vis des Lords canadiens, les pousse à exiger le retour sans condition de leurs biens, la conservation de leur culture en péril et même la séparation de la province du pays, pour une autonomie sans raison pour le moment et le désir de vouloir faire ce que bon leur semble chez eux.

Qui tient les atouts présentement? La question ne doit pas se poser. Qui tiendra les cartes maîtresses? Le temps nous le dira. Entré temps, plusieurs individus de part et d'autre profitent de la situation, voire même s'enrichissent, soit en faisant les hypocrites, soit en cherchant des mots révolutionnaires qui peuvent épater la populace (exemple Gilles Vigneault, Charlebois). Et puis il doit bien y avoir un problème d'ordre majeur dans un pays où tout semble adéquat et où pauvres comme riches sont satisfaits ou presque de leur condition et niveau de vie. Cela pousse d'autres individus à enrichir, améliorer et propager la culture de peur de la perdre parmi une majorité qui à première vue ne tient qu'à s'opposer à l'épanouissement de celle-ci. D'autres plus chanceux oublient le

Tous ces exemples nous démontrent que la révolte est inscrite dans l'esprit de l'homme; sa fierté, sa personnalité l'oblige à la contester, s'il se voit le moins durement touché, affronté par son supérieur; Dans le cas qui nous intéresse aujourd'hui la révolte est supposée aider un peuple à commencer une nouvelle culture, s'épanouir et jouir, de l'usufruit de leur terre depuis si longtemps cachée. C'est une révolte qui vise aussi l'abondance dans tous les domaines, une abondance non mesurable et indéfinie une abondance matérialiste algue, sans limites, une révolte de la classe moyenne qui s'use les ongles à force de vouloir grimper et s'installer aisément dans la classe supérieure, parce qu'on veut imiter le voisin, sans persévérance.

Mais l'abondance après la frivole n'est pas à conseiller. Un noir de la brousse émerveillé devant une lampe électrique, perd la tête, oublie ce qu'il possède et quitte sa place natale pour les lumières de la ville. Déconcerté dépassé les premiers jours les remords de son milieu sauvage ne tarderont pas à le rappeler et il repartira.

Nous ne pensons que les Québécois ne sont pas dans leur espace écologique le plus recherché. Le travail de tout leurs sens, leur laisser-aller, leur savoir-vivre, leur simplicité (je remarque cela dans le langage), leur goût de la vie, leur amour de la nourriture, leur désir accentué de sexe opposé, leur débordance en général "exaspérée" l'anglais, qui lui aime mener une vie ordonnée, lente à heure fixe et quelque peu monotone. La fierté quelquefois mal passée d'ailleurs de ces "Lords" l'exigence pour exiger, le calcul pièces de leurs nombres d'années d'existence "agacent" le Québécois qui se sent mépriser frustré par un tel attachement de l'individu à la vie, qui n'est qu'éphémère après tout.

L'exaspération des anglais vis-à-vis leurs voisins pousse certains parmi eux à ignorer catégoriquement la province de Québec peut-être la mépriser d'autres prennent part et essayent par des moyens considérables à les exploiter sans qu'ils se ren-

dent compte, et enfin d'autres veulent les éliminer.

En fin cela fait un bon sujet de discussion pour les jeunes révolutionnaires qui déboulent et qui n'ont pas autre chose à faire que de critiquer négativement pour se croire et faire croire leur importance et peut être même pour acquiescer un esprit critique qui leur servira dans le futur pour diriger comme de bons pères de famille d'eux-mêmes, leur comptes en banque, leurs voyages, leurs divertissements, leur voiture, leur maison, leur chalet. Car croyez nous une fois que ces jeunes contestants auront obtenu leur diplôme, tous ces problèmes vont paraître d'ordre secondaire, sans importance et ils se mettront du côté du plus fort. Maturité oblige.

Mais pour l'instant puisque ça tient à coeur, parlez, jasez, mais n'oubliez pas d'agir aussi.

Par Chawky Bahri

Les opinions exprimées dans ce texte ne sont pas nécessairement celles de Lambda.

l'équipe lambda

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Lambda welcomes letters from students, employees, and faculty. Pen names may be used, but the author's real name and telephone number must accompany each submission. Please type if possible. Friday is the deadline for Tuesday's publication.

LORD

... communiqué ...

Dear Editor,
Permit me to respond to your second page feature (September 21st) in which you refer to The Times of London as "that international organ of venal piggishness".

Having been a devoted reader of that newspaper in past years, I take strong exception to your inaccurate description. I would suggest that, in comparison to the "national" newspapers of other countries, The Times, (along with the Guardian), ranks high with respect to coverage of British and overseas news - to the extent that its overseas correspondents are consulted by radio networks such as the CBC for analyses of international events.

Perhaps I may illustrate my point by giving a breakdown of the contents of the paper for Friday, August 13, 1976. (I trust that is not an unlucky issue!):

Page 1 General news (British and Overseas)

Pages 2-3 "Home" (UK) news

Page 4 Western European Section

Page 5 Overseas news

Pages 6-8 Feature article on Korea

Page 9 The Arts

Pages 10-11 Sports

Page 12 The Times Diary and London report

Page 13 Editorial and letters

Page 14 Obituary and University news.

Pages 15 -20 Business Section

Pages 21-23 Classified
Page 24 Personal columns

This format is fairly typical. In addition, The Times published three weekly supplements (Education, Higher Education, and Literary), which are read throughout the world.

Finally, a word on the financial position of the paper. Owing to limited circulation, (approximately 250,000 as compared with three million for some British newspapers), The Times has never been a money-maker. Thomson set up a trust fund to ensure that the paper will continue. No doubt the lack of high journalistic standards will be maintained.

Yours sincerely,
Keith Sinclair
Department of Political Science

P.S. If you are going to print this please do it in full, or not at all.

SISTER

Dear Editor,

It seems that women at Laurentian University are not interested in forming a group. Apparently, no women did come to the proposed meeting. Perhaps the time or date was wrong. I do not exactly know.

The failure of this non-event to materialize makes me realize that women on the LU campus are decidedly not interested in coming together. This has always been a problem with women in general. We, as women, have all been taught not to get too close to other women, but rather to approach other women with a certain degree of hostility and reservedness. Hopefully, as adults, we should be able to view ourselves and others with some kind of basic trust. Am I to correctly assume that what they really say about women is basically true? That most women are really only children contained in adult bodies. I hope this view is not the truth, but the failure of my endeavour certainly gives substantiation to that statement.

Another view one can assume is that women in general, are quite content with their state of affairs. They are quite willing to accept society as it is presented to them. University is a place where women learn about themselves only through the eyes of others. They do not need to question myths in society since they, themselves, believe in the myths. Who wants to rock the boat anyway and be labelled as a "feminist bitch"?

If there are any women at LU who can prove these assumptions false, feel free to respond by confronting me. Or, you can also contribute your opinions to the pages of Lambda, your student newspaper.

P.S. Is ignorance really bliss?

A sister,
Nancy Slaway

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Happenings

SGA needs volunteers to administer an employment survey on Oct. 6, 7, 8. Submit names at SGA office - G9, Student Street. Help the Ontario Student!

Camera Club organizing meeting at UC lounge. Wed at 7:30. Bill Fassett.

Laurentian Cinema Club prospective members please contact Mohammed Shahdoost or Mike Aspinall at UC # 903.

University Parish, University of Sudbury, Mass. Monday - Friday. 12:15 - 5:20. Round chapel. Saturday. 7:00 pm. Round chapel Sunday. 10:30 am. Student Lounge. Bilingual. 11:00 am. Chapelle Ronde. Français.

BOOKS FOR SALE

Paleobiology 2405, Sociology 2040. Call Linda Lachance. 674 - 9489

Economics, Intro course. Political science - Today's Isms, - William Ebenstein Spanish 1000. See Nuray or Shevket, Marr. Stud. Res. Apt. # 1103.

Oct. 31 - Ernst Lubitsch, Trouble in Paradise (USA 1932) Perhaps the greatest film of the talented German director who became one of the most respected Hollywood directors of the 1930's.

Nov. 14 - Ingmar Bergman, Scenes from a marriage (Sweden 1974). One of Bergman's best in recent years - harrowing, but deeply moving.

Laurentian Film Society 1976-1977 Program

Oct. 3 - Orson Welles, The Magnificent Ambersons (USA 1942). A recent critic rate this film as even better than Kane.

Place - Teacher's College Auditorium

Time - Sunday's at 7 pm
Price - 10 films: \$12, 5 films: \$8, 1 film \$3.

Tickets - LU Bookstore, The Book Mine

Oct. 17 - Philippe de Broca, King of Hearts (France 1966) An excellent satiric comedy starring Alan Bates and Genevieve Rujold.

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